GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1989
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
PROMOTION OF COOPERATIVE SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cooperative sector can impart valuable contribution to the development of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas where cooperative sector may impart its contribution;

(d) the efforts made by the Government for the promotion of cooperative sector; and

(e) the results achieved therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (e): The cooperative sector provides a forum for people to join hands for their social and economic betterment through self-help and mutual aid in accordance with the cooperative principles. The main areas where the cooperative sector has made valuable contributions are:-

i) Disbursement of agricultural credit;
ii) Procurement and disbursement of agricultural inputs like fertilizer, seed, pesticides etc.;
iii) Marketing of consumer goods;
iv) Production and processing of sugar and oilseeds;
v) Procurement and marketing of Cotton;
vi) Milk procurement, processing and distribution of milk products;
vii) Development and marketing of fisheries;
viii) Imparting cooperative education and training to the personnel involved with cooperatives and to the public in general; and
ix) Generation of employment in rural areas.

Government of India has formulated the following central sector schemes to promote the cooperative sector:-

i) Assistance to NCDC Programmes for Cooperative Marketing, Processing, Storage in Cooperatively Under/Least Developed States/Uts;
ii) Share Capital Participation in Growers Cooperative Spinning Mills;
iii) Integrated Cooperative Development Projects in selected Districts;
iv) Assistance to National Cooperative Federations; and
v) Cooperative Education and Training.

The Central Government has enacted the new Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 which aims at providing full functional autonomy and democratic management to the societies. It has also formulated a National Policy on Cooperatives which includes legislative and policy reforms in the cooperative sector.

As a result of all these measures, the cooperative sector has witnessed substantial growth in diverse areas of the economy. With a network of 5.28 lakh cooperative societies and a membership of 22.88 crore, the cooperative sector in India has emerged as one of the largest in the world. It provides coverage to almost 100% villages and 75% of the rural households. It has generated self employment for more than 14.3 million people.